

**Ad-Hoc Committees of Senate 2023-2024**

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF SENATE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF SENATE

COURSE AND TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

IDST AD HOC COMMITTEE of SENATE

COMMITTEE ON MICROCREDENTIALS

NURSING PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

**Document Date:** March 5, 2024 (updated as applicable)

**Prepared by The Office of The Senate Secretariat**

Committee: **Academic Discipline Appeals Committee**

Type: Ad-hoc

Status: Appointed and meets only when necessary.

The Academic Discipline Appeals Committee shall be activated as needed by the Chair of Senate, after notification by the Vice-President (Academic). The membership of the Academic Discipline Appeals Committee shall be elected in accordance with Article VI. 1. and shall be as follows:

- One member of the Faculty of Arts<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- One member of the Faculty of Professional Studies<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- One member of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science
- Two students

The duties of the Academic Discipline Appeals Committee shall be:

To deal with any matter of academic discipline which cannot be resolved by the Vice-President (Academic).

Membership (5)    Representative    Period of Service

1	Prof. St.	
1	P&A Sc.	
1	Arts	
1	Student	
1	Student	

Chair: Senate Chair – Anna Kieft (2023-2024)

Procedures for Appointment of Faculty: Nominated and elected within each Faculty.

Committee: **Community Engagement Committee**

Type: Ad-hoc

A new **Ad Hoc Community Engagement Committee** will be formed and has been directed by Senate to begin to take the following actions.

- Committee membership: three faculty members (elected by faculty), one student (appointed by ASU), one Dean (appointed by Vice President Academic)
- Document and celebrate the ways in which Acadia is currently engaging with the broader community and integrating this engagement into program curricula.
- Consider how Acadia can strengthen its links to the broader community in future.
- Determine the status and usage of the co-curricular transcript. After gauging interest, propose mechanisms to enhance its use in future.
- Engage with key people and groups on campus (Co-op office, ALL program, Department of Community Development, Associated Alumni of Acadia University, Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre, Acadia Athletics, SMILE, Performing Arts Series, etc)

Once the committee is properly constituted, an initial meeting will be scheduled. The committee will report on their initial work at the January 9, 2017 meeting of Senate.

<b>Membership (5)</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Period</b>
1 Dean		
1 Arts	Cynthia Alexander	
1 Prof. St.	Kesa Munroe-Anderson	
1 P&A Sc.	Catherine Morley	
1 Student		

Chair: Catherine Morley

Procedures for Appointment of Faculty: Nominated and elected within each Faculty.

Procedure for appointment of Dean: Appointed by the VP Academic

Once the committee is properly constituted, an initial meeting will be scheduled. The committee will report on their initial work at the January 9, 2017 meeting of Senate.

Committee: **Course and Teaching Effectiveness Ad Hoc Committee of Senate**

Type: Ad-hoc

Motion that the Course and Teaching Effectiveness Ad Hoc Committee of Senate be formed for the 2021-2022 academic year, with membership and terms of reference as outlined.

---

At the May 2021 meeting of Faculty Council, the following motion was passed by Faculty Council:

**Faculty Council recommends that Senate undertake a complete review of the student survey process and purpose, with the goal of creating more equitable and informative surveys, and/or establishing additional/alternative processes to help support faculty members in maximizing their teaching effectiveness.**

Faculty Council is a committee of Senate, and at the last Senate meeting the topic of how to address this motion was discussed. As a way forward, the Senate Executive proposes that an Ad Hoc committee of Senate be formed to explore options for (1) collecting student course feedback, and (2) supporting faculty in improving course and teaching effectiveness. The proposed membership and terms of reference follow.

**Committee: Course and Teaching Effectiveness Committee**

Type: Ad-hoc

The committee shall be comprised of the following twelve members.

- One Faculty Dean (Dean of Arts, Dean of Science, or Dean of Professional Studies), appointed by the Provost and Vice-President Academic
- Director of Open Acadia (or designate)
- Two faculty members from the Faculty of Arts\*\*
- Two faculty members from the Faculty of Professional Studies\*\*
- Two faculty members from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science\*\*
- One faculty member from the College of Divinity and Faculty of Theology, elected by the College of Divinity and Faculty of Theology
- One undergraduate student, appointed by the Acadia Students' Union
- One graduate student, appointed by Acadia Graduate Students' Association
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer

Chair: Member of the committee, elected by the committee. The Faculty Dean shall call the first meeting. The committee shall hold its first meeting by no later than September 15, 2021.

*\*\* Faculty members include archivists, curators, instructors, lecturers, librarians, and professors. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer.*

**Membership (12)****Representative**

1 Dean	David Duke
1 Vice Provost Teaching and Learning Excellence	Lauren Finnis
1 Arts	Jennifer MacDonald
1 Arts	Vacant
1 Professional Studies	Christianne Rushton
1 Professional Studies	Karen Kendall
1 Pure & Applied Science	Nathan Grieve
1 Pure & Applied Science	Eva Curry
1 College of Divinity	Stuart Blythe
1 Undergraduate Student	Vacant
1 Graduate Student	Vacant
1 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer	Polly Leonard

Chair: Stephanie Jones

**Terms of Reference:**

The purpose of the committee is to explore methods for (1) collecting student course feedback, and (2) supporting faculty in improving course and teaching effectiveness. The following activities may guide the committee's work:

- Conduct two surveys, one for students and one for faculty members, related to how student course feedback may be gathered and how course and teaching effectiveness may be best reflected upon and assessed.
- Review existing practices at Acadia and other institutions.
- Review the literature related to student surveys of courses and teaching, particularly in the areas of effectiveness of surveys, bias, and equity.
- Recommend to Senate new processes to replace current student surveys, which may include: development of new student surveys, development of teaching dossier templates, development of faculty self-reflection documents related to teaching activities, classroom observations from peers and/or academic administrators, mentoring programs, and/or attendance at professional development programming.
- Identify other bodies or committees that may be best positioned to complete tasks related to recommended processes.
- Liaise with the AUFA and the University Administration to identify parts of the Collective Agreement that would need to be revisited in order for the university to implement any recommended processes.
- Liaise with Technology Services to identify possible integration of some of the recommended processes into the new Colleague system.
- Complete other activities that members of the committee deem beneficial.

- Report back to Senate in June 2022. Report shall include highlights of survey results, status of process recommendations, and status of committee work. The committee shall recommend whether its mandate should be extended for an additional year.

**Motion passed by Faculty Council on May 4, 2021:**

**Faculty Council recommends that Senate undertake a complete review of the student survey process and purpose, with the goal of creating more equitable and informative surveys, and/or establishing additional/alternative processes to help support faculty members in maximizing their teaching effectiveness.**

Notes/ Issues to Consider (not an exhaustive list):

- The Collective Agreement states that “Candidates shall present evidence of their teaching activities as part of their dossier. Where the evidence relates to classroom performance, it should be based on direct observation by peers and/or academic administrators or by student surveys as in Article 17.02 A (n).”
- Under the current CA, faculty members are required to administer student surveys, and summaries of the numerical data has to be included in their renewal, tenure, and promotion (RTP) documents.
- There is ample evidence to suggest student surveys can be biased and do not always provide a good assessment of student learning. These issues apply particularly strongly to women or BIPOC faculty members, raising equity concerns. Student surveys often work best as formative assessments to help faculty members improve their teaching, rather than as summative assessments to measure and compare faculty performance. (We believe that other groups or individuals on campus have been collecting such evidence, which could be collated and shared).
- Note the current system for conducting electronic student surveys will no longer work under Colleague. The system and procedures will therefore have to be re-examined for the Fall term anyway.
- Making student surveys optional for RTP procedures would have to be a matter for negotiations.
- However, it would still be within the purview of Senate to revise the current survey form to ensure the questions asked align with best practices.
- Workshops or other guidance could be made available to help faculty who are interested in other methods of documenting their teaching activities for RTP purposes, and / or assessing their teaching effectiveness for their own formative professional development. Examples might include:
  - Guidance on development of effective formative student surveys;
  - Guidance on developing effective teaching dossiers;
  - Procedures to help facilitate classroom observation by peers and/or academic administrators;
  - More opportunities to obtain professional training, mentoring, and / or peer support around teaching issues.

Committee: **Interdisciplinary Program Committee (IDST) Ad Hoc Committee of Senate**

Type: Ad-hoc

BE IT MOVED THAT Senate establish an Interdisciplinary Program Committee that will make proposals for:

- (a) the rationalized governance and administration of IDST programs;
- (b) the representation of IDST faculty on major decision-making committees, including hiring committees to ensure that IDST programs are supported when hiring is done;
- (c) the support of IDST programs through curriculum visibility, flexibility, and procedures such as systematic cross-listing and cross-coding;
- (d) mechanisms by which departments will be advantaged by supporting interdisciplinary studies and programs.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED THAT the proposed committee be composed of a representative from each of the IDST programs chosen by the respective IDST program, as well as a faculty representative from each of the faculties, elected via the appropriate faculty elections officer and a student preferably from an IDST program and chosen by the SRC.

Committee: **Ad Hoc Committee on Microcredentials**

Type: Ad-hoc

Formed at Senate meeting on February 13, 2023

Mandate extended on June 19, 2023

**Membership (5)**

1	Arts
1	Pure and Applied Science
1	Professional Studies
1	Theology
1	Lay Senator

**Representative**

Jeffrey Sachs
Lisa Price
Christianne Rushton
Danny Zacharias
<b>Vacant</b>

**Motion to form committee passed at Senate February 13, 2023:**

*Whereas* the Act of Incorporation defines the power of Senate as being “to control, regulate and determine the educational policy of Acadia University”;

*Whereas* a micro-credential, as well as other non-traditional credits, are kinds of educational credentials, conferred according to standards that are themselves educational standards;

*Whereas* the administration is participating in a provincial working group to develop a Nova Scotia Micro-credential Framework that would affect educational policy at Acadia, should the university choose to adopt a micro-credential program;

*And Whereas* the Nova Scotia Ministry of Labour and Advanced Education has urged provincial post-secondary institutions to consider adopting a micro-credential program;<sup>1</sup>

*It is moved that an ad hoc* committee be struck to examine this matter from the perspective of Senate jurisdiction, and determine the role of Senate in the creation and on-going supervision of micro-credential programs and/or other non-traditional credit programs.

The committee will in particular determine whether these programs fall under the jurisdiction of Senate, and if so, whether they fall under the jurisdiction of an existing standing committee, or whether a new standing committee needs to be created.

This committee will be called “The *ad hoc* Senate Committee on Micro-credential programs,” and will be made up of one Senator from each of the four faculties, a student Senator, a lay Senator, and the Provost. The Committee will elect a voting chair from within this group during the first meeting.

---

<sup>1</sup> Nova Scotia Ministry of Labour and Advanced Education Business Plan, 2021-2022, accessible [here](#).



Committee: **Ad Hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee**

Type: Ad-hoc

Formed at Senate meeting on April 10, 2023

Mandate extended on June 19, 2023

**Committee membership (updated February 2024):**

- Corinne Haigh, Dean, Professional Studies (Chair)
- Kate Ashley, VP Academic (Interim)
- Jeff Hooper, Dean, Pure and Applied Science (Interim)

Matt Lukeman, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Pure and Applied Science representative

- Benjamin Morris, VP Academic for the Acadia Students' Union
- Maggie Neilson, Vaughan Memorial Library
- Roxanne Seaman, School of Kinesiology, Chair of Senate Curriculum Committee (Policy)
- Janna Wentzell, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Professional Studies representative
- Ian Wilks, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts representative
- Brian Wilson, Department of Biology

**Motion to form committee passed at Senate April 10, 2023:**

Whereas the Act of Incorporation defines the power of Senate as being “to control, regulate and determine the educational policy of Acadia University, and, with the approval of the Board of Governors insofar as the expenditure of funds and the establishment of faculties are concerned, may create such faculties, schools, departments, and institutes...as the Senate may determine,” and to “determine the courses of study and standards of admission” to Acadia University;

Whereas the provincial government has expressed an interest in having Acadia establish a Nursing Program with an initial intake of students as early as September 2023;

Whereas this proposal represents an important opportunity for Acadia to expand its educational offerings and help to address Nova Scotia’s ongoing healthcare challenges;

Whereas a Nursing Program may have a significant impact on the current educational offerings and distribution of resources within multiple academic units within the university;

Therefore an ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee shall be struck to consider the establishment of a Nursing Program at Acadia University and to make to the Senate whatever recommendations related to the program it deems fit. This shall include recommendations regarding the suitability of establishing such a program, its curriculum, appropriate structure and faculty home, and any other matters related to educational policy. The committee shall have authority to consult where appropriate with relevant individuals and academic units at Acadia University and other colleges and universities. The committee will receive from the Provost a description of how resources could be allocated to address the corresponding needs of existing and new academic units. The committee shall receive from and provide assistance to the Provost around discussions with Government of Nova Scotia and any other appropriate bodies as the committee may deem necessary.

This committee shall consist of the Provost, the Dean of Pure and Applied Sciences, Dean of Professional Studies, the chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee (Policy), one faculty representative from the Biology Department, and one faculty representative from each of the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Professional Studies, and the Library. The members shall select a Chair of the committee.

The committee shall investigate this matter with all deliberate speed and shall make regular reports to Senate on its progress.